

The Dade Massacre.

(BY HON. FRED CUBBERLY.)

PRESENTED BY J. C. B. KOONCE.

To rescue from oblivion and perpetuate in the memory of succeeding generations the heroic patriotism of Dade and his men, and to preserve as a hallowed spot the scene of their sacrifice.

 T. J. APPLEYARD, PRINTER, TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

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Cubberly, Fredericks.

F.S.U.

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Also the following:

Whereas, The State of Florida has large areas of excellent agricultural land, and in many sections there are opportunities for varied industries, and at the present time the same are not being advertised to the world in an aggressive manner by the State Department of Agriculture through the Bureau of Immigration for lack of authority to do so; and,

Whereas, The Legislature of the State of Florida has the power to authorize the Commissioner of Agriculture to extend the duties and activities of the Department of Agriculture in this direction and to make appropriation for said work; therefore, be it

Resolved by the Gadsden County Board of Trade, in regular session assembled in the city of Quincy, Florida, on this the 8th day of April, 1921, That we respectfully request and urge the members of the Legislature of the State of Florida to vote favorably upon the bill creating a bureau to be known and designated as the "State Bureau of Immigration and Publicity," under the Department of Agriculture of this State, and to be directly supervised and controlled by the Commissioner of Agriculture under the authority of the Legislature, and that said body make adequate appropriation for the operation of the same for a period of two years, in the interest of the proper development of all of the counties of this State; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be forwarded by the Secretary to His Excellency, Governor Cary A. Hardee, to Honorable W. A. McRae, Commissioner of Agriculture, to each member of the Florida Senate and House of Representatives, to the president of the Florida State Press Association asking the support of the press in this important matter, to all commercial organizations in this state, urging their co-operation, and a copy to the local newspapers of the leading cities of Florida.

Adopted April 8, 1921, at Quincy, Florida.

E. M. COLLINS, President.

Attest:

F. R. S. Phillips, Secretary.

Mr. Koonce moved that the following communication be spread upon the Journal:

Communication from Hon. Fred Cubberly, of Gainesville, relative to the Dade massacre.

Presented by J. C. B. Koonce, of Sumter:

THE DADE MASSACRE.

(By FRED CUBBERLY).

The year 1835 found the Seminole Indians of Florida in a disturbed condition; a few of the chiefs only being favorably disposed to remove to the country west of the Mississippi as the treaty of Payne's Landing had obligated them to do.

There had been numerous conferences and "talks" between General Wiley Thompson, the Indian Agent, at Fort King, near the present site of the City of Ocala, and the Agent had reported to the Washington authorities from time to time of the impending difficulties. The Indians claimed that the first treaty, made at Camp Moultrie, near St. Augustine, should control their affairs and the administration at Washington held for a strict construction of the treaty of Payne's Landing made at a later date.

At this time President Andrew Jackson took a firm stand in the controversy, and in a message, dated February 16, 1835, directed to the chiefs and warriors of the Seminole Indians in Florida, used the following expressions:

"You know me, and you know I would not deceive nor advise you to do anything that was unjust or injurious."

* * * "I tell you that you must go and that you will go." * * * You have sold your country. You have not a piece as large as a blanket to sit down upon."

Those stern words were communicated to the Indians at councils held at Fort King in March and April, 1835, and the situation was fully explained to the principal chiefs and warriors by General Thompson, the Agent; General Duncan L. Clinch, then in command in Florida, and experienced army officers.

During the summer of 1835 but few Indians came to Fort King and the parleys with the Indians having been prolonged it was decided that removal would be deferred until the beginning of 1836. From time to time General Thompson and others had advised that small force at

Fort King and at Fort Brooke, Tampa Bay, would be insufficient and recommended a re-inforcement of those posts and particularly of the post at Fort King.

Orders were given in due time for detachments of the First and Second Artillery, and Fourth Infantry, to move from Key West via Tampa Bay, to Fort King. This command was given to Major Francis L. Dade.

From Fort Brooks, on Tampa Bay, there was a trail or road known as the Fort King road; the distance between the two posts was about one hundred miles and over the larger streams had been placed crude bridges.

Late in December, 1835, Major Dade and his troops began their march from Fort Brooke, and for several days nothing was heard from the command. Early in January there came to Fort Brooke a private soldier named Daniel F. Clarke, bearing severe wounds, weak from the loss of blood and the great hardships he had endured, and barely alive, as he had crawled almost the entire distance from the scene of one of the most bloody massacres in the history of the American Army.

Clarke was one of the survivors of the command consisting of one hundred and two privates and non-commissioned officers, and eight officers that had left Fort Brooke on December 24, 1835.

The news of the massacre brought by Clarke created consternation in the small garrison at Fort Brooke, and steps were taken to protect the post against attack by the savages. A sailing vessel was about to depart for Mobile, and news of the destruction of Dade's command was sent to Washington and to the larger cities and towns along the Gulf Coast.

The news of this astounding attack roused the authorities at Washington to the seriousness of the situation. For the first time in the history of our army, almost an entire command of trained soldiers had been exterminated in a daylight attack. Later came news that on the day of the Dade attack, Osceola and a small band had at Fort King ambushed General Thompson and his aide, Lieutenant Smith, as they were taking a stroll near the agency buildings. The savages then looted the sutler's store for ammunition, liquor and stores, and departed south along the trail to join Micanopy, Alligator, and the band that had earlier in the day wiped out the command of Major Dade.

Major Dade, the commanding officer of the ill-fated detachment, was a veteran of the war of 1812, a brave and cautious soldier, and was to some extent aware of the unsettled condition of the country through which he had to pass. His detachment traveled with oxen as the principal means of transport of supplies and stores, supplies and ammunition, and necessarily the progress of the command was slow. He was provided with one piece of artillery, a six-pounder, and this was drawn by oxen. From the account of the battle given by Clarke, it appears that Major Dade moved slowly and with caution along the military road, traces of which may be seen to this day, and until he had crossed the forks of the Withlacoochee River, he had sent scouts ahead, and at night made an entrenched camp, or cut trees for breastworks, and used all possible precautions against a night attack.

The evening before the attack he had crossed his last river, and had encamped for the night near a small pond about four miles below or south of the point of attack. On the morning of the 28th he assembled his command near the pond, which is now known as Dade's Breakfast Pond, and addressed them, stating that the most dangerous part of their journey had been passed, and that they were nearing their destination, and by nightfall would probably reach Fort King.

On previous days he had advanced with flankers and an advance guard, but on the morning of the 28th day of December, having passed the thick swamps and the morning being somewhat chilly, his vigilance was relaxed, and the command proceeded with a small advance guard, the men wearing their overcoats buttoned, and their ammunition boxes under the outer garments. Major Dade and Captain Fraser closely followed the advance guard, and the men in double file followed.

About four miles north of the last night camp, and while in the open woods and just west of a small pond, and at a point where the grass was tall and there were many clumps of saw palmetto, the Indians, one hundred and eighty in number, besides a large number of their negro slaves and retainers, had concealed themselves in the grass and in the palmettoes. The command was slowly progressing along the trail, at this point where the attack was, according to the methods of Indian warfare, not to be expected. The cold quiet morning was sud-

denly startled by a shrill war whoop uttered by the chief Jumper, followed by a single short fired by Micanopy, and then immediately a sheet of fire from the concealed Indians poured into the startled soldiers. More than half of the command went down at the first volley. The aim of the Indians was well nigh perfect, and the attack had been carefully planned, and discussed by the chiefs.

Halpatter-Tustenuggee, or Alligator, in his narrative of the battle, says that after the first volley, the soldiers were rallied by the few remaining officers, and that the field piece was loaded and fired several times, but the Indians soon shot down the artillery men and the gun was silenced. He says that one officer, a little man, was a very brave man, that he drew his sword and swore great oaths and made every effort to rally his soldiers. From all accounts this officer was Captain Fraser, as it appears that Major Dade was killed during the first volley from the Indians. The soldiers took refuge behind trees, and fought to the last. The firing continued for some time, and then the Indians retired a short distance to replenish their ammunition. An Indian coming up said that there were a few white men left, and that they had thrown up a breastwork of logs. The savages returned to the ground, and placed the survivors under severe fire, and the soldiers' fire was soon silenced for want of ammunition. The Indians sent their negroes into the enclosures and found three white men alive, who after a conversation with the Indians in English were put to death, but not until one soldier, whom Alligator says was a very brave man and who refused to surrender, seized an Indian, took away his rifle, and with one blow, dashed out the brains of the Indian, and then ran up the road. He was pursued by Indians on horseback and soon shot down. Clarke, who had received seven wounds, corroborates this account and said that he pretended to be dead when the Indians came into the enclosure. A negro slave gave him a push with his foot and said "He is dead enough." Clarke lay feigning death, among his dead comrades until nightfall, and then crawled out of the bloody pen and started on his long and painful journey to Tampa Bay.

The Indians had taken all the guns and ammunition, so he was unarmed. He shortly fell in with another sol-

dier, and they traveled together, always at night, hiding in the day time. They soon discovered that Indians were on their trail and separated. Clarke said that soon after he heard a volley of shots fired that told his companion's death.

That the Indians themselves were astounded and perhaps awed by the fearful slaughter is evident from their actions after the battle. But few of the dead were scalped, or their clothing taken, two things that were invariably done after a successful battle. The officers were not robbed of articles of jewelry or personal adornment. Alligator says that they hastily left the battle ground and returned northward into the swamp, where late at night they were joined by the chief Osceola and his band, fresh from the murder of General Thompson and Lieutenant Smith, at Fort King. Osceola had his band loaded with loot from the sutler's store at Fort King, and the two bands celebrated their bloody work until far in the night, many of them drunk on the liquor they had taken from the sutler's store. It is said that Osceola placed the scalp of General Thompson on a pole, and many of the Indians made speeches to the departed spirit of the General.

For five weeks the bodies of the slain remained exposed to the vultures and the elements. General Edmund P. Gaines, who had landed at Tampa Bay, with a considerable force of men, marched against the hostiles and reaching Fort King Trail, advanced to the scene of the massacre, arriving there in February, 1836.

Captain Ethan Allen Hitchcock, a graduate of West Point, and serving as Inspector General of the Gaines Command, reports that it was indeed a melancholy scene that greeted the advance of the command. The bodies of the slain were scattered along the trail, the oxen, their yokes still upon them, were lying as though they had fallen asleep. The horses of the officers lying dead and the ground littered with the remains of boxes and packages that had contained the ammunition and supplies of the detachment. Then they came upon the small enclosure where the last stand was made, and there found the skeletons of thirty or more men who were lying in the position they might have occupied during their last fight, their heads to the log breastworks, bodies parallel with each other and arms extended, showing that to the last

they had held their weapons directed upon the enemy. They had evidently died fighting to the last. Passing the enclosure other bodies were found, and then they came to the place where the advance guard and most of the officers fell. The bodies of all of the officers were identified, as many of the officers with General Gaines were friends and associates of those who had fallen. The little army of General Gaines was halted, the bodies of the men gathered and buried in a long trench, the officers in another, and the proper and usual military honors paid to the dead. To this day the outlines of the trenches may be seen, the remains having been removed therefrom many years ago, and taken to the National Cemetery at St. Augustine, where they rest under a monument erected to the men and officers of the Florida Indian War. The six-pound gun was found in the pond near by (where it had been thrown by the Indians) and placed in an upright position at the head of the trenches.

The officers of the command who perished on that fateful December morning were Major Francis L. Dade, Captain Fraser, Captain Gardiner, Lieutenants Bassenger, Henderson, Mudge and Keale, and Dr. J. D. Gatlin, surgeon. The bodies of ninety-eight privates and non-commissioned officers were found and interred. Two men of the command in addition to Clarke, reached Tampa Bay after suffering great hardships on their perilous journey.

Eighty-five years have elapsed since this event, but there is nothing on this historic spot to indicate to the public that here died as American soldiers a body of brave men, while nobly fighting a savage foe. The writer visited the scene on December 28, 1918, an anniversary of the battle. The battle ground is located about one and one-half miles southwest from the Town of Bushnell, the county site of Sumter County, Florida, and not far from the main line of the Seaboard Air Line Railroad, which runs from Jacksonville to Tampa. With the aid of a sketch copied from a small map made by Lieutenant Joseph E. Johnston, afterwards a famous General of the Confederate States Army, and the field notes of the public lands surveys, it was possible to accurately locate the battle ground and identify the Fort King Trail, which may be traced through the woods at this place. There has been little change in the spot, in the eighty-five

years, the same open pine woods with the clumps of palmettoes similar to the ones behind which the Indians laid in wait. The little pond to the east of the trail is still there and the tall pond grass and the clumps of undergrowth bring to mind the hiding places of the savages. A few oak trees have grown from what is pointed out as the officers' burial trench, nature's monument to those who were slain.

For some years the citizens of the locality have been endeavoring to arouse interest in the erection of a suitable monument to mark this incident in the history of our country. It has been proposed that a few acres of land thereabouts be set aside as a public park, and a suitable monument with an appropriate tablet be erected as the scene of the battle. Near by may be found a quantity of native stone, which could be erected into a substantial foundation and shaft, on which could be placed a suitable tablet reciting the fact of the heroic death of those who fell on that chilly December morning, 85 years ago.

The Legislature of the Territory of Florida was in session when the news of the massacre reached Tallahassee, the capital, and suitable resolutions were passed, the flag placed at half mast, for a period of time. Many years later the Legislature of the State of Florida by proper memorial to Congress of the United States, requested a small appropriation for the purpose of making this historical spot a National Park, but Congress, busily engaged with problems of our recent war, has not acted upon the request.

LIST OF NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS AND PRIVATES KILLED
IN THE DADE MASSACRE DECEMBER 28, 1835.

Second Regiment Artillery—

Edward Belton	Anthony Laughlin
Rufus Barton	John M. Wiggins
Henry Brandon	High McMee
William Carney, musician	Hugh Perry
James Dunlap, corporal	Patrick Rooney
Isaac Grant	Patrick Rafferty
Chas. T. Hicks, musician	Casper Schnieder
John Hurley	Hiram Taylor
Aaron Jewell	Orville Worchester

John Keins	Richard Bourke
John M. McCartney	Richard Bowen
Robert Mulvahal	Nicholas Clarke, corporal
William Neeley	Edward DeCoursey
Reuben Phillips	Robert Green
William Robertson	John Hood, sergeant
Thomas Savin	John Halter
Isaac Taylor	Cornelius Hill
Joseph Wilson	Thomas Knarr
William Black	John Lovis, sergeant
Owen Bogen	James McDonald
Phillip Cooper, sergeant	Wm. McGraw, artificer
Joseph Craig	John A. Patten
Thomas Davis	Michael Bryan, corporal
Alpheus Gillet	John Reilley
Geo. Howard, artificer	William Taylor
William Holmes	Thomas Thornton
Michael Kenny	William Wright

Third Regiment Artillery—

George Bertram	Henry Sennam,
B. C. Carpenter	Richard Vreeland
John C. Folk	Samuel S. Wright
Samuel Kinkerly,	Daniel Weshing
William Minton	Alexander Jones
John Schaffer	Patrick Cumasky
John Vailing, sergeant	William Flannigan
Henry Wagner, artificer	Jordan Hall
Sylvester Welch	Samuel Lemon
George York	John Mulchay
Benj. Chapman, sergeant	Washington Tuck
Samuel E. Dodge	Philander Wells, corporal
George Huleyhigh	John Williams
Jacob Kneeland	Geo. C. Young, corporal
Donald Monroe	A. C. W. Farley, sergeant

Fourth Regiment Infantry—

John Barnes	Cornel Donovan
John Doughty	Samuel Hall
Enoch Yates	Michael Cunningham
John Mackham	William Downes
Donald Campbell	Wiley Jones

The above list contains the names of ninety-four non-commissioned officers and men. This list is compiled from a published list of all the officers and men who died as a result of their service in the Florida war. Captain Hitchcock, in his report of the battle, states that the bodies of ninety-eight men and eight officers were buried on February 20th, 1836, on the arrival of the command of General Ermund P. Gaines from Fort Brooke.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS.

By Mr. Williams, of Leon—
House Resolution No. 26:

Be it Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the Standing Committees of the House shall have the right to file their reports at any time while the House is in session.

Which was read.

Mr. Williams moved the adoption of the Resolution.
Which was agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS.

By Mr. Corbett, of St. Johns—
House Concurrent Resolution No. 6:

Be it Resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring, That a Committee of three members, two from the House and one from the Senate, be appointed to visit and inspect the State Prison Farm at Raiford, Florida, and report to this Legislature the result of its inspection.

Which was read.

Mr. Corbett moved that the rules be waived and House Concurrent Resolution No. 6 be read a second time.

Which was agreed to by a two-thirds vote.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 6 was read a second time.

Mr. Corbett moved the adoption of the Resolution.

Which was agreed to.

And House Concurrent Resolution No. 6 was ordered certified to the Senate.

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